

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-3, 7, 8 and 16-45 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 are amended, claims 4-6 and 9-15 are canceled, and claims 27-45 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 6, 7 and 11-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6, thereby placing claim 1 and its dependent claims into allowable form. In addition, new independent claim 27 includes the subject matter of original claims 1 and 11, as well as intervening claim 9, thereby placing that claim and its dependent claims into allowable form.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-129.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:                     /Paul T. Bowen/                      
Paul T. Bowen  
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:jck  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100